

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, Title:

SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM  
AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

Page 3, third and fourth full paragraphs:

~~And yet another object of the present invention is to provide a novel method for fastening one piece of tissue to another piece of tissue.~~

~~And still another object of the present invention is to provide a novel method for repairing tears in meniscal cartilage.~~

Page 3, fifth full paragraph:

These and other objects are addressed by the present invention, which comprises a surgical fastening system ~~and a method for using the same.~~

Page 19, last paragraph, continuing onto page 20:

As noted above, the assembly shown in FIGS. 13 and 14 is preferably used in conjunction with the holder 145 shown in FIGS. 15 and 16. More particularly, it is envisioned that surgical fastener 5 and grip 140 will be packaged in holder 145 at the time of manufacture, and then removed from the holder at the time that the fastener is to be used in a surgical procedure. To this

end, holder 145 includes a first recess 165 for accommodating shaft 10 of fastener 5, an adjacent opening 170 for accommodating fins 40 and bar 60 of surgical fastener 5, and an adjacent opening 175 for accommodating grip 110 associated with fastener 5. Holder 145 also comprises an opening 180 for permitting an installation tool to enter holder 145 and to engage, and then withdraw, the surgical fastener 5 from the holder, as will hereinafter be disclosed in further detail. To this end, opening 180 communicates with both ~~opening~~ recess 165 and opening 170. A shoulder 185 is formed at the point where ~~openings~~ recess 165, and openings 170 and 180 meet. Preferably, holder 145 is formed out of two mirror halves 145A and 145B (FIG. 16) so as to facilitate the manufacture of holder 145 and the positioning of surgical fastener 5 and grip 140 in the holder.

Page 20, last paragraph, continuing onto page 21:

Looking next at FIGS. 17-19, a second installation tool 150 is shown which may be used in conjunction with the present invention. Installation tool 150 comprises an inserter 80 (FIGS. 18 and 19) similar to the inserter 80 disclosed above. Inserter 80 is slidably disposed with an elongated tube 190. Tube 190 includes a distal end 195 terminating in a distal end surface 200, and a proximal end 205. Distal end surface ~~190~~ 195 is preferably flat, whereby tube 190 will present a blunt distal end. The proximal end 205 of tube 190 is connected to a handle

210. Handle 210 includes a button 215 which is connected to the proximal end of inserter 80 via selected means of the sort well known in the art (not shown) whereby button 215 may be used to position inserter 80 in (i) a first retracted position, wherein the distal end of the inserter is withdrawn into the interior of tube 190 (FIG. 17), (ii) a second, partially-extended position, wherein the inserter's sharp point 100 and a portion of its recess 105 will be projected out of the distal end of the installation tool's tube 190 (FIG. 18), and (iii) a third, fully-extended position, wherein all of the inserter's recess 105 will be projected out of the distal end of the installation tool's tube 190 (FIG. 19). In addition to the foregoing, the installation tool's tube 190 is sized so that it can accommodate a surgical fastener 5 carried by inserter 80. By way of example, where surgical fastener 5 and inserter 80 have the exemplary dimensions recited previously, tube 190 might have the following dimensions:

tube inner diameter height	3.2 mm
tube inner diameter width	1.8 mm
tube outer diameter height	3.7 mm
tube outer diameter width	2.3 mm

Page 22, second full paragraph:

More particularly, and looking next at FIG. 20, surgical fastener 5 and its associated grip 140 are intended to be positioned within holder 145 at the time of manufacture so that the fastener's shaft 10 is disposed in holder ~~opening~~ recess 165, the fastener's fins 40 and bar 60 are disposed in holder opening 170, and grip 140 is disposed in holder opening 175. As seen in FIG. 20, holder 145 is sized so that the proximal end of fastener 5 protrudes slightly beyond the holder's shoulder 185 and into holder opening 180.

Page 30, last paragraph, continuing onto page 31:

FIG. 43 shows another surgical fastener 5F. Surgical fastener 5F is identical to the surgical fastener 5 described above, except that (i) the fastener's bar 60F extends on both sides of the fastener's shaft 10F, and (ii) shaft 10F has its proximal portion of 10F' laterally displaced from its distal portion 10F", so the fastener's surface 265 is coplanar with its surface 25F. Such lateral displacement of shaft 10F at the proximal end of the shaft permits fastener 5F to fit in inserter 80, with surfaces 25F and 265 resting on inserter ~~surface~~ floor 110 (FIGS. 4 and 5).

Page 33, fourth and fifth paragraphs:

~~And a novel method is provided for fastening one piece of tissue to another piece of tissue.~~

~~And a novel method is provided for repairing tears in meniscal cartilage.~~